

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SMS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /058 W
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R 111320Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6735
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 6959

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT SCUL PL VT
SUBJ: WYSZYNSKI EULOGIZES POPE PAUL IN PACKED WARSAW CATHEDRAL

REF: WARSAW 5999

1. MASSES IN HONOR OF POPE PAUL WERE HELD AUGUST 10 IN WARSAW
CHURCHES FILLED TO OVERFLOWING.
THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS CELEBRATED IN ST.
JOHN'S CATHEDRAL. APPROXIMATELY 2500 PEOPLE WERE CRAMMED
INTO THE CHURCH. AN EQUAL NUMBER THRONGED OUTSIDE THE
ENTRANCE TO THE CATHEDRAL. BISHOP JERZY MODZELEWSKI
CONDUCTED THE HIGH MASS; STEFAN CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI
DELIVERED THE HOMILY.

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2. AT FIRST HEARING AT LEAST, WYSZYNSKI'S SERMON
CONTAINED NOTHING OF CURRENT POLITICAL INTEREST.
THE STORY IS IN HIS IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE AT
THE PULPIT. WYSZYNSKI LOOKED ASHEN AND FRAIL.
YET HE STOOD RAMROD STRAIGHT THROUGHOUT MOST OF
THE TWO-HOUR AND TEN MINUTE CEREMONY. HE SPOKE

FOR 55 MINUTES. HE PUNCTATED HIS SERMON WITH
NUMEROUS GESTURES FOR EMPHASIS, HIS VOICE WAS
STRONG, AND, ALTHOUGH HE SPOKE WITHOUT NOTES, HE
NEVER STUMBLED OVER HIS WORDS. HIS GAIT FROM
THE CHANCEL OF THE CATHEDRAL TO THE RAISED PULPIT
IN THE NAVE OF THE CHURCH WAS SLOW BUT FIRM.

3. COMMENT: WYSZYNSKI'S PERFORMANCE AT THE MASS
WOULD HAVE BEEN A STRONG ONE FOR A MAN OF ANY AGE.
IF, AS HAS BEEN RUMORED, HE IN FACT RECEIVES MEDI-
CATION TO PUMP HIM UP FOR HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES,
HE SHOULD PASS ALONG THE PRESCRIPTION TO ANOTHER
FIGURE WHOSE HEALTH IS INTENSELY SCRUTINIZED THESE
DAYS, LEONID BREZHNEV.
SCHAUFELLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: POPE, HEALTH, DEATHS, SPEECHES
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Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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